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RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 4038
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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - RUSSIA-GEORGIA

1. LEAD STORIES: Lead items on Thursday morning were concerted reductions in interest rates by six U.S. and European central banks and the 2008 Nobel Prize in chemistry awarded to three scholars, including a Japanese scientist currently studying in Boston.

2. "Russia Completes Troop Pullout from Georgia" A Moscow correspondent for the liberal Asahi wrote (10/9): "Wednesday's orderly departure (of Russian troops from Georgia) left the strong impression that the Medvedev government is committed to complying with a peace accord brokered by French President Sarkozy. Moscow is now showing strong interest in what it can obtain in return. Russia appears to be looking to seize the leadership in the international conference to be held on Friday in Geneva concerning security in South Ossetia and Abkhazia with the goal of 'neutralizing' Georgian military power. By demanding that representatives from South Ossetia and Abkhazia be allowed to participate in the planned confab, Moscow hopes to build a fait accompli toward the independence of the two renegade provinces. The EU's response will be tested, as it insists on the territorial integrity of Georgia."

SCHIEFFER